

New boys shine, but Wycombe lose

Sports Mail Special Report

COR-CASUALS 4 : WYCOMBE WAND 2

INJURY-HIT Wycombe bled teenage wingers Les Merrick (17) and Mick Page (19) at the Oval this afternoon and shocked Corinthian-Casuals by pulling back the two-goal lead, but they couldn't keep up the pace and went down in the second half.

Corinthian-Casuals: Swannell; Hewitson, Joy; Simkins, Robertson, Walsh; Insole, Jacobs, Joyce, Trimby, Randle.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Fisher, Gale; Page, Blair, James, Horseman, Merrick.

Referee: A. G. Hitchman (Woking).

Speedy Casuals made the early running and the Wycombe goal had a narrow escape when Lewis headed off the line after the roving Joyce had tricked both Fisher and Beck to centre.

Wanderers fought back with plenty of spirit and young Merrick made a spectacular start to his senior Soccer career with five successive corners; each was a model of accuracy and Casuals were glad to kick anywhere.

Blair was also prominent with a chip shot which almost deceived goalkeeper Swannell.

Both defences were shaky under pressure. Swannell just beat Horseman to a James centre in the Casuals' goal-mouth. When play flashed to the other end Beck kicked off the goal-line after the ball had slipped through Brown's hands.

TRIMBY scored a beautiful goal after 15 minutes, charging through a big gap in the middle of the Wanderers' defence, to shoot home on the run.

After 25 minutes the brilliant dribbling of TRIMBY led to the second goal. He shoved off

challenges by Gale and Fisher to roll the ball past Brown.

Merrick never wasted a ball. From one of his moves Swannell just tipped Gale's shot over for a corner.

FISHER came up-field for the kick and hit Page's accurate shot past Swannell. Two minutes later centre half Robertson headed Merrick's cross into his own net for the equaliser.

Half-time: Corinthians 2, Wycombe 2.

As Wycombe kept up the pressure, Page, who had switched wings this half, tricked two men and fired just wide. Merrick, who was easily eluding the cumbersome Joy, was now Wycombe's danger man.

With Thomas playing Trimby well, and Fisher and Gale in fine form, much of the threat went out of the Casuals' attack. But Insole nearly caught Brown napping with a sharp shot.

Wycombe deserved to win, but lucky Casuals got it with ten minutes to go, when JACOBS stabbed home a low, right wing centre.

Two minutes later JOYCE scored following a similar move.

RESULT:

CORINTHIAN-CAS. 4

WYCOMBE 2

WYCOMBE HIT BACK, SLUMP

Cor-Casuals 4 Wycombe W. 2

WITHOUT internationals Paul Bates and Len Worley, Wycombe Wanderers were a long time settling down in this Isthmian League game at the Oval and Casuals, playing fast, accurate football, were soon two up.

In the 18th minute Randle rounded John Beck and centred to Trimby who crashed the ball in from 20 yards.

After 27 minutes Trimby dribbled past three defenders to put Casuals further ahead.

Showing true form at last Wycombe attacked with wing halves Charles Hale and Dave Thomas in support and they harried Casuals into conceding a spate of corners, cleverly taken by their young debutant wingers.

From Mick Page's corner after 32 minutes centre-half John Fisher reduced the leeway and within three minutes Les Merrick's corner floated into the goal area where Robertson, under pressure, hooked the ball into his own net.

It now seemed that Wycombe had quelled the fire of the Casuals attack, but the pace of the game eventually told.

Increasing demands were made on the defence as Casuals returned to the attack.

Encouraged by John Fisher, Wycombe held out till the 83rd minute, then Doug Insole sent Joyce free on the right. He crossed to Jacobs who shot home.

Four minutes from time Insole passed to skipper Simpkins and Joyce hooked the latter's centre inside a post.